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## **FACT SHEET**

### **PROPOSED REVISIONS TO EPA's TOXIC AIR POLLUTANT STANDARD FOR THE GROUP I POLYMERS AND RESINS AND THE GROUP IV POLYMERS AND RESINS MANUFACTURING PROCESSES**

#### **TODAY'S ACTION**

- ◆ The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is today proposing revisions to the final toxic air pollutant standard for Group I Polymers and Resins (elastomer production processes) and Group IV Polymers and Resins (thermoplastic production processes). Toxic air pollutants are those pollutants known or suspected to cause cancer and/or other serious health effects.
- ◆ The proposed revisions will provide affected industry sources with a regulation that is more streamlined and easier to implement while still providing strong environmental protection. Today's action will not change the control technology, the predicted emission reductions, or the cost of the final rule.

#### **WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?**

- ◆ EPA's final Group I and Group IV Polymers and Resins rules regulate the emissions of twenty of the pollutants identified in the Clean Air Act's list of 189 hazardous air pollutants.
- ◆ The EPA's final Group I and Group IV Polymers and Resins rules are expected to reduce emissions of hazardous air pollutants by 9,920 tons/year. This represents about a 30 thirty percent reduction from current levels.
- ◆ Today's proposed revisions will streamline these rules, allowing for easier implementation while still providing strong environmental protection.

#### **BACKGROUND**

- ◆ Under the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, the EPA is required to regulate emissions of 189 listed toxic air pollutants. On July 16, 1992, the EPA published a list of source categories that emit one or more of these toxic air pollutants. For listed categories of "major" sources (those that emit 10 tons annually or more of a listed pollutant or 25 tons or more of a combination of pollutants), the Clean Air Act requires the EPA to develop standards that will require the application of stringent air pollution controls, known as maximum achievable control technology.

- ◆ EPA's published list of industry groups to be regulated, identified nine source categories producing major elastomers. These elastomers are used to produce such consumer items as automobile tires, belts and hoses. The EPA also identified six source categories producing major thermoplastic resins and polymers on the published list. These thermoplastic resins are used in the production of such items as textile fibers, household appliances, and interior panels in the automotive industry.
- ◆ EPA's Group I Polymers and Resins rule was promulgated on September 5, 1996, and the Group IV Polymers and Resins was promulgated on September 12, 1996.

### **WHAT WILL THESE PROPOSED REVISIONS CHANGE?**

- ◆ A number of today's proposed revisions stem from the result of litigation of a toxic air pollutant rule commonly referred to as the HON. As certain provisions of the these polymers and resins rules refer to the HON, changes will be made to conform to final revisions of the HON.
- ◆ The applicability for flexible operation units was significantly modified to make these provisions more workable for these types of operations, especially for contract manufacturing which has unique operating characteristics.
- ◆ Control technology provisions for batch process venting and the associated emission estimation requirements will be simpler and less burdensome.
- ◆ Reporting and record keeping revisions will reduce the number of copies of reports that must be submitted to the EPA and the States and remove the requirement for most facilities to file an implementation plan. These revisions also allow facilities that show no violations for long periods of time to report and record monitoring data less frequently.
- ◆ EPA will accept public comment on the proposed revisions before issuing final revisions to the rules.

### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

- ◆ Interested parties can download the proposed revisions from EPA's web site on the Internet under "recent actions" at the following address: <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg>. In addition, the proposed revisions can be obtained from the Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center, by telephone (202) 260-7548 or by electronic mail, [a-and-r-docket@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:a-and-r-docket@epamail.epa.gov). The docket numbers are A-92-44 for Group I Polymers and Resins and A-92-45 for Group IV Polymers and Resins.
- ◆ The EPA's Office of Air and Radiation's home page on the Internet contains a wide range

of information on air pollution programs and issues. The Office of Air and Radiation's home page address is: <http://www.epa.gov/oar/>.

- ◆ For questions on the proposed revisions, contact Mr. Robert Rosensteel of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-5608.